

## **A Vision of the Lamb, Part 2**

### **Revelation 5:5–8**

**Isaiah 11:6,7 The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and the little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox.**

**Isaiah was talking about a time when the whole of creation is redeemed from the curse that came because of the fall.**

**The scene in chapter 5 is still the sky. The throne of God is still central. The cherubim are there, and the enthroned elders representing the raptured church are there.**

**The ruby-diamond blazing glory of God is shining out through an emerald rainbow and bouncing off a clear crystal platform on which the throne is set. From the very throne of God comes lightning and thunder flashing.**

**We see in that scene the Holy Spirit shining in seven-fold glory; and everything around God, every being around God is offering Him worship.**

**And so, chapter 4 ends with this glorious scene of the throne of God, and all of both redeemed and raptured men and the spirits of the saints and the angels as well worshipping God**

**verse 1: “I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne” – that is God – “a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.”**

In the upturned palm of God, we see this little scroll. This is the title deed to the universe. God has it. It is rightfully His. It is the official document that grants the created universe to God by ownership.

Now the contents of this scroll are all sealed inside of it, and a summary of it is written on the outside. The contents of the scroll will be known to us as we begin in chapter 6, where the Lamb breaks one of the seven seals and then another of the seven, until all seven are broken and the scroll is fully unrolled, describing not the why of the universe belonging to God, but how He will take it back.

This scroll doesn't have the why, it has the how. .

**Verse 2: "And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, 'Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?' And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it. And I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it."**

**verse 5 "And one of the elders said to me, 'Stop weeping, your tears are unnecessary. Behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David has overcome so as to open the scroll and its seven seals.'"**

**Behold."** What does that mean? "Look."

If you know anything about the Old Testament you know that that is a title for the Messiah, that is a messianic title. It's taken out of Genesis 49:8 through 10, one of the earliest titles for Messiah. The Messiah would come, and the Messiah would be a Lion.

In fact, the Jews even in the time of Jesus expected their Messiah to be a lion. That's why it was so very hard for them to understand Jesus Christ. They expected the lion to come, menacing and destructive, and destroy the Romans and destroy the Greeks and destroy the pagans.

In the end of **Revelation, chapter 22, verse 16**, Jesus Himself says, **"I am the root and the offspring of David."**

Oh, momentarily they did. Momentarily in Matthew 21:9 on what we call Palm Sunday, they said, **"Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."**

But now John sees Him step forth again. The elder says to him, **"Look, the lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David."**

The elder says, **"He has overcome, so as to open the scroll and its seven seals."**

He had told people when He first came that He could have done it if He had wanted to even then. He said, **"If I wanted to I could call for a legion of angels to come to My rescue."**

As Jesus moved toward the cross, in **John 12:31** He said, **“Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world shall be cast out.”** He knew when He went to the cross that He was starting what He would finish some day in the future.

In **John chapter 14 and verse 30**, **“I will not speak much more with you,”** – He said – **“for the ruler of the world is coming; but he has nothing on Me. I’m going into combat with Satan, and I will win.”**

In **John 16:11**, **“The Spirit convicts of judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”** That anticipates the cross.

**But in His death and resurrection, He conquered Satan. He gave the fatal blow that Genesis 3:15 says would be the blow to the serpent’s head.**

**Colossians 1:13** puts it in a marvelous way: **“He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”**

God used Christ to overcome. **“We are the overcomers, because Christ overcame; and we overcome in Him.”** We then become the recipients of His overcoming.

**Colossians chapter 2 verse 13, “And you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him,” – when He overcame, you overcame – “having forgiven us all our transgressions, having cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, in which was hostile to us; and has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”**

**Who are they? Demons. He triumphed over all of the demons and Satan himself. He conquered them at the cross. He conquered sin. He delivered us into His own kingdom.**

**And by now John knows the overcomer. By the way, the verb “overcome,” nikaō, from which we get Nike, “to overcome,” “to be the victor.”**

**Verse 6: “And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures and the elders) a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth.”**

**And God was sending them a message through that symbolism, that the one who is the ultimate Lamb will be one who is precious. And the slaying of that lamb will be a sacrifice.**

**It would have been no sacrifice particularly to bring in a strange lamb and slay it, but one that had become a pet.**

**And John looked and he saw a little pet lamb; not a lion, but a lamb. But the Lamb is the Lion.**

**Now this is not just any lamb, but you'll notice this lamb is standing. That's very important. What that means is it's on its feet, it's alive, it's moving.**

**Here he sees Christ in the figure of a lamb on His feet and moving. But also, a lamb standing as if slain. The lamb is bearing the scars from death wounds. The deadly wounds on the Lamb are still visible. But the Lamb is alive.**

**You remember how even after His resurrection, Jesus showed them the nail prints in His hands and feet and His side. The Lamb had death wounds, but the Lamb was alive**

**What Jesus did on the cross cost Him His life, but He didn't lose. He disarmed the principalities and the powers. He descended into hell, as it were, and pronounced His triumph over them, says Peter. No, He didn't lose, He won. And He'll win again. He'll win again.**

**1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:18 "We could never have been redeemed by silver or gold, but only with the precious blood, as of a Lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.**

**Looking back at Verse 6 again, it describes this Lamb in quite interesting terms. This, remember, is in a vision, almost indescribable. But it says, "He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits" – or the seven-fold Spirit of God – "sent out into all the earth."**

**Now what does this mean? Well, animals had horns; and in the animal kingdom a horn always represented power, because that's what animals use them for, to exert their power in combat.**

**Seven horns simply means – seven being the number of perfection, completion – that He was perfect power.**

**And then it says, “He had seven eyes.” Again, seven being the number of perfect or completion. This speaks of knowledge, understanding, omniscience. He could see and comprehend everything.**

**And so, here again this fullness of the Holy Spirit is mentioned, this time with reference to knowledge for judgment.**

**The fullness of the Spirit in chapter 1, verse 4, was in relation to grace and peace.**

**The fullness of the Spirit in chapter 4, verse 5, was the fullness of the Spirit in acting judgment.**

**But here His fullness is the fullness of omniscience as He searches the earth for the criminals to be judged.**

**John 14, 15 and 16, “I’m going to send another comforter.”**

**Verse 7 says, and this is monumental, “And He came and He took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.” He is the Lamb.**

**This is the great culminating act of human history. This is going to bring human history to its end. The goal of redemption is about to be reached. Paradise is about to be regained. Eden is about to be restored. The Lamb comes and takes the scroll out of the hand of God.**

**Daniel chapter 7 and verse 13. “I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days” “and He was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom.”**

**Here comes the Son of Man, here comes the Lamb, and He comes up to the throne of God. And was given to Him dominion, glory and a kingdom,” – how extensive? – “that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an ever lasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”**

**The praise begins to unfold in an escalating, ascending crescendo of worship, as the oratorio of redemption climaxes. In fact, in this scene, all intelligent creation finally gets involved in the joyful praise.**

**The paeon of praise that begins to unfold here toward the Lamb rolls on, accumulating more momentum, until the song of adoration is in the mouth of every living creature in the universe.**



**Verse 8: “And when He had taken the scroll,” – I mean, it’s instantaneous – “the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.”**

**Revelation 10, John fell down before an angel, and the angel said, “Get up; worship God.”**

**“God raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the age to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things,” Ephesians 1:20 to 22. God exalted Him!**

**Back in Psalm 2, the promise came: “I have installed My King” – verse 6 – “upon Zion, My holy mountain. Ask of Me,” – He says – “and I will give You” – that is My Son – “the nations as Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth as Your possession. And You will break them with a rod of iron, and shatter them like earthenware.”**

**God is saying “There’s going to be a day when I give My Son His throne.” And then He warns, “Worship the Lord with reverence, rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. You better be ready when My Son takes His rightful place. You better be ready when My Son steps out to rule and to judge.”**

